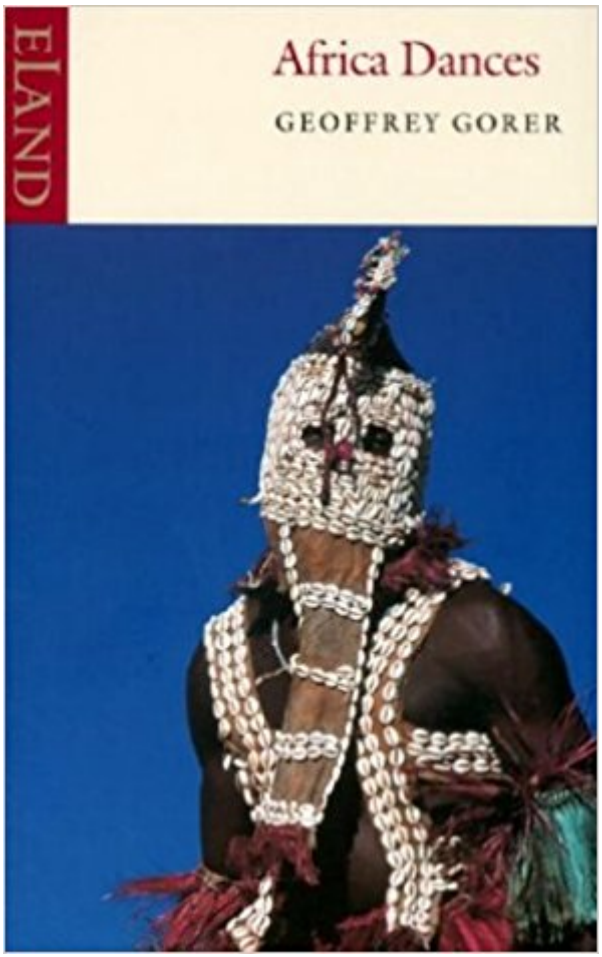
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Africa Dances



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Synopsis

Originally published in 1935, Africa Dances takes the reader on an odyssey across West Africa, in the company of one of the great black ballet stars of 1930s Paris (Feral Benga). It’s a devastating critique of colonial rule, which is shown to be destroying African society while Christian missionaries undermine indigenous morality. The book captures the rich physical and psychological detail of village life-from food and architecture to witch doctors, dance, and magic.

Book Information

Paperback: 292 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.3 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,211,773 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #170 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Folk #1720 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > General #25257 inÃ Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games

Customer Reviews

Gorer (who ultimately spoke 12 languages) accompanied a famed Senegalese dancer who was performing in Paris on a dance research journey through West Africa, ostensibly to gather material and recruit dancers for a company in Paris. This is one of the first books I’ve found by a European of that era that speaks admiringly and respectfully of African culture and describes accurately the scourge of colonialism. Fascinating stories. Gorer does apologize at the end for some of his early prejudices, as he slowly "gets" the amazing role that music, dance and religion play in the intimate lives of the communities they tour. The vision of a dance company was ended by the Nazi chapter of Europeans history, but was finally realized in the 1960’s when African nations used their independence to create touring companies to publicize and share their rich performance traditions. This is an important link in that lineage.

Africa dances is an amazing eye witness account of a formative period of history in African, well written and perceptive. It was Gorer’s first look at Africa, in the company of a friend he met

performing in Paris in the 1930's, and accomplished African dancer (male) performing at the Folies Berger (spelling), (sort of like the Ziegfield Follies). Their intention was to view dances in different parts of West Africa, starting in Senegal, and recruit a company. In the 1930's. This is a travelogue, as well as an indictment of destructive colonial policies of the time. A must read. (Gorer went on to master over 12 languages and must have written other fascinating books I haven't found yet).

Softcover, 8.5" x 5.5", 291 Pages. Not Illustrated. Short biography of author. First Published by Faber & Faber in 1935. Newly published by Eland in 2003.Described as an "odyssey across West Africa" in the mid-1930's, and "a devastating critique of colonial rule, which is shown to be destroying African society while Christian missionaries undermine indigenous morality." Well-written, informative, and easy to read, this is both a travel book, and a history of a particular time in Africa,

Item met my expectation thank you

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